

WHAT'S *New*

in the Metropolitan Police Department



*A weekly update for residents, visitors,
and workers in the District of Columbia*

Friday, August 5, 2005

MPDC ACTIVATES 12 NEW PHOTO ENFORCEMENT CAMERAS

Following a month of warning notices only, the MPDC has begun issuing tickets to motorists caught driving aggressively by 12 new photo enforcement cameras located throughout DC. Nine new red-light cameras and three new stationary photo radar cameras were activated on Friday, August 5. The new cameras bring to 48 the number of red-light intersection safety cameras, with one additional camera soon to be activated. In addition, DC now has eight stationary photo radar speeding reduction cameras and a fleet of 12 mobile photo radar vehicles, with two additional stationary photo radar cameras scheduled for activation in the coming weeks. The 12 new cameras were turned on during the week of July 1, 2005, and generated only warning notices for the next month. Beginning August 5, however, aggressive speeders and red-light runners caught by the new cameras are receiving Notices of Infraction in the mail. While photo-enforced violations do not carry points in DC, the fines for speeding range up to \$200 per violation and the fine for running a red light is \$75. Chief Ramsey pointed out that the new cameras were activated during the same week in which the US Department of Transportation announced that DC led the nation in reducing traffic fatalities last year. "I firmly believe that photo enforcement has been a major factor in this very positive trend," the Chief said. Fatalities on DC roadways declined 35 percent between 2003 (69 fatalities) and 2004 (45, the lowest total in at least 18 years). Traffic fatalities are down another 30 percent so far this year. Since the implementation of photo enforcement in DC, both red-light running and aggressive speeding have declined dramatically.

① Read the news release at:

<http://app.mpd.cdc.gov/newsroom/newsroom.asp?sid=96000>

① For details on the MPDC's red-light intersection safety camera program, go to:

http://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/cwp/view,a,1240,Q,547886,mpdcNav_GID,1552,mpdcNav,1,asp

① Information on the MPDC's photo radar speeding reduction program is at:

http://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/cwp/view,a,1240,Q,547970,mpdcNav_GID,1552,mpdcNav,1,asp

CRIME IN DC DECLINES 8 PERCENT DURING JULY

The number of serious crimes reported in DC declined by more than 8 percent during July, according to preliminary statistics from the MPDC. Compared with July 2004, violent crime was down 5 percent last month, driven by a 17 percent reduction in assault with a deadly weapon. There were increases in the number of reported robberies (4%) and sexual assaults (17%), while homicides were unchanged. All categories of property crime declined last month, with theft from auto (-13%) and auto theft (-11%) recording significant reductions. Total property crime fell 9 percent last month. Five of the seven police districts reported decreases in crime during July, according to the preliminary statistics, with 6D (-22%) and 3D (-20%) recording the largest reductions. For the first seven months of the year, reports of serious crime in DC were down just over 13 percent when compared with preliminary data for January-July 2004. During this period, violent crime in DC was down 10 percent (including an 18 percent reduction in sexual assault), and property crime declined by 14 percent (including a 26 percent drop in stolen autos). All seven police districts have recorded reductions in crime so far this year.

① View the latest preliminary crime statistics for each of the seven police districts, as well as DC as a whole, at:

<http://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/cwp/view,a,1239,q,543329.asp>

① For tips on protecting yourself and your property, visit:

<http://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/cwp/view,a,1237,q,542013.asp>

DC COMES OUT TO CELEBRATE NATIONAL NIGHT OUT 2005

High temperatures didn't wilt the city's spirit when it came to National Night Out 2005. On Tuesday, August 2, thousands of residents from across DC came out for a host of crime prevention activities, as part of DC's celebration of "America's night out against crime." A few hundred residents of Southeast joined Mayor Williams, Chief Ramsey, Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton, US Attorney Kenneth Wainstein, and other criminal justice and community leaders for the official citywide kickoff. In addition to food, music, and crime prevention information and displays, the kickoff included the presentation of community policing awards and a softball game involving the police, community members and the event's media partner, WPGC 95.5-FM. The game was dedicated to the memory of longtime WPGC News Director David Haines, a strong supporter of National Night Out who passed away in early July. Following the kickoff, the Mayor, the Chief and other leaders visited a number of National Night Out events in all parts of the city. All told, DC held approximately 50 National Night Out events — from cookouts, ice cream socials and block parties, to candlelight vigils and neighborhood walks. This was the 22nd annual celebration of National Night Out.

MPDC ISSUES REMINDER ABOUT REWARD PROGRAMS

With 10 homicides and several other serious shootings over the past week, the MPDC reminds residents of its various rewards programs for information leading to the solving of these crimes. The Department currently offers a reward of up to \$25,000 to anyone who provides information that leads to the arrest and conviction of the person or persons responsible for any homicide committed in DC. In addition, the Crime Solvers program offers rewards of up to \$1,000 for information that leads to an arrest and indictment in other serious crimes. Chief Ramsey emphasized that tips from the community are critical to the successful resolution of most serious crimes, which in turn helps to prevent future crimes committed by these offenders. Among the serious crimes of the past week that remain under investigation is a brazen, daytime multiple shooting in the 5700 block of 6th Street, NE. One man was killed and three others were injured in the incident, apparently carried out by a lone, masked gunman armed with an assault-style weapon. Individuals who have information about this or any other unsolved crime in DC should call the MPDC at (202) 727-9099 or the Crime Solvers Unit at 1 (800) 673-2777.

NEWS & NOTES

June Court Reports. Each month, the Community Prosecution staff of the US Attorney's Office publishes a report containing a summary of significant cases in each police district that were prosecuted during the previous month. These Court Reports discuss crimes that occurred in DC neighborhoods and provide updates on the criminal convictions of those who commit these crimes. Access the reports for June, May and April at http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/dc/Community_Prosecution/Court_Reports/index.html.

Proof of Insurance Reminder. Motorists are reminded that DC law requires them not only to have vehicle insurance, but also to display proof of insurance if stopped by an officer. Failure to provide proof of insurance can result in a \$300 fine. Details at <http://app.mpdcc.gov/newsroom/newsroom.asp?sid=65000>.

① Chief Ramsey wishes to thank all of the police officers, community leaders and residents who made this year's National Night Out such a success. "Community policing in the District of Columbia is stronger than ever, thanks to your dedication, energy and spirit," he said.

① To make its post-event report and awards application as comprehensive as possible, the MPDC would appreciate photographs, flyers or other documentation from neighborhood NNO events in DC. Send your materials to Kevin Palmer, MPDC, 300 Indiana Avenue, NW, WDC 20001, or email him at: kevin.palmer@dc.gov

① Learn more about Crime Solvers and view some of DC's Most Wanted at: http://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/cwp/view,a,1243,q,544785,mpdcNav_GID,1523,mpdcNav,|.asp

For details on recent homicides and other serious crimes in DC, visit: <http://app.mpdcc.gov/newsroom/newsroom.asp>

DATA BOX

Homicides	as of 8/5/05
♦ 2005: 113	
♦ 2004: 112	
♦ % Change: +.9%	
♦ Closure Rate: 54.0% (61 closures)	
Adult Arrests	week end. 7/30/05
♦ Total: 1,006	
♦ Drugs: 192	
♦ Weapons: 15	
♦ Motor Vehicle Theft: 18	
♦ Prostitution/Sex Offenses: 67	
Juvenile Activity	week end. 7/30/05
♦ Arrests: 44	
♦ Curfew Violations: 95	
♦ Truants: 0	
Firearm Recoveries	as of 8/3/05
♦ July: 15	
♦ July: 156	
♦ 2005 Total: 1,402	
Traffic Fatalities	as of 8/5/05
♦ 2005: 23	
♦ 2004: 33	
♦ % Change: --30.3%	

Information, ideas, or comments about this service? Send an e-mail to **KEVIN MORISON**, MPDC's Director of Corporate Communications, at kevin.morison@dc.gov. Would you like to have this information e-mailed to you? Just go to our Website and register with **Crimereports.com**.

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